

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-03 PCH-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 /160 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS
APPROVED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS
S/PRS - MR. KING
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY
AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL
H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)
NEA/EGY - MR. STERNER
EUR/P - MR. SAVAGE

----- 048411

R 062010Z NOV 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USINT CAIRO
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USINT ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
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USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY SANAA BY POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING
NOVEMBER 6, 1973:

QUOTE: Q. TWO QUESTIONS THAT WERE RAISED YESTERDAY, (1)
HAVE YOU GOTTEN ANY FURTHER INFORMATION ON ANY SORT OF
EGYPTIAN BUILDUP ON THEIR SIDE OF THE SUEZ CANAL? AND,
SECONDLY, DO YOU NOW HAVE CONFIRMATION ABOUT THE EGYPTIAN
AND SOUTH YEMENI BLOCKADE AT BAB EL MANDEB?

A. NO, I DON'T HAVE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE FIRST.
AND, ON THE SECOND, I THINK I WOULD HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THE
BAB EL MANDEB AREA THAT WE STILL CAN'T TECHNICALLY DESCRIBE
THE EXACT SITUATION THERE AT THE MOUTH OF THE RED SEA.

CERTAINLY, THERE ARE NAVAL VESSELS THERE. BUT, ON THE OTHER
HAND, NO FORMAL BLOCKADE HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED, SO FAR AS WE
KNOW.

Q. HAS ANY AMERICAN SHIPPING GONE THROUGH?

A. AS FAR AS I'M AWARE, NONE HAS GONE THROUGH; BUT, AS FAR
AS I'M AWARE, NONE HAS TRIED TO GO THROUGH. SO YOU'RE IN A
SOMEWHAT AMBIGUOUS SITUATION.
THE ONLY THINK I WOULD ADD TO THAT, HOWEVER, IS THAT WE
WOULD CERTAINLY REGRET ANY ACTIVITY WHICH MIGHT INHIBIT
THE FREEDOM OF THE SEAS; BUT IT IS NOT A VERY PRECISE
SITUATION.

Q. THERE'S A REPORT FROM DELHI THAT MR. SISCO HAD CANCELED
HIS PLANNED VISIT TO INDIA. IS THAT CORRECT, AND WHY?

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A. THE WHOLE SISCO TRIP HAS BEEN A VERY INDEFINABLE THING.
HIS WHOLE SCHEDULE WAS TENTATIVE WHEN HE LEFT HERE, AND IT
STILL IS. AND I DON'T EXPECT TO GET HIS EXACT ITINERARY
UNTIL LATER THIS WEEK.

Q. DID NEW DELHI SUGGEST THAT IT WOULDN'T BE NECESSARY
FOR HIM TO COME, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THEIR FOREIGN
MINISTER WAS JUST HERE?

A. I KNOW THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS HERE. AND IF HE DOES NOT GO TO NEW DELHI, I WOULD ASSUME THAT WOULD CERTAINLY BE THE REASON -- BECAUSE THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAS BEEN HERE.

Q. ON THE QUESTION OF A POSSIBLE EGYPTIAN BUILD-UP, ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOU AS A STATE DEPARTMENT'S SPOKESMAN HAVEN'T BEEN GIVEN ANY INFORMATION ABOUT WHETHER THIS IS OR IS NOT OCCURRING, OR ARE YOU SAYING THAT U.S. INTELLIGENCE HAS NO INFORMATION ON THE SUBJECT?

A. ON THE BASIS OF THE MATERIAL THAT I HAVE SEEN, I HAVE NO SPECIAL ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT WOULD INDICATE THE KIND OF BUILD-UP WHICH WAS BEING ASKED ABOUT HERE YESTERDAY. END QUOTE. RUSH

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED SANAA.

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